

phies and other changes in the endometrium due to misplacements, pelvic tumors, etc. As bacteria are the cause of uterine inflammation in the vast majority of the instances, he considers endometritis and metritis as some stage of infection, either acute or chronic. He therefore classifies them according to the various agents infecting the genital tract: (1) gonorrhoeal, (2) those conditions caused by pyogenic or saprophytic bacteria (essentially a wound infection), and (3) tuberculosis.

The feature which particularly recommends the book is that the latest ideas in each branch of the subject are presented as exhaustively as the scope of the work permits by one especially interested in that branch.

JOHN A. SAMPSON.

A TREATISE ON SURGERY. By GEORGE RYERSON FOWLER, M.D., Brooklyn, New York City, Examiner in Surgery, Board of Medical Examiners of the Regents of the University of the State of New York, etc. 2 vols., royal 8vo. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1906.

There are two points of view from which we may regard a new treatise on surgery. It is the record and exposition of the learning of the author and his ability as a teacher, but it is also a history of his own achievements in his chosen work and a record of what he himself has done to further the science and art of surgery.

The author of this treatise has finished his work. He has laid down pen and scalpel and sleeps in his final repose under the greensward on the edge of the busy city whose people he served so well. He never saw a printed copy of his book. Death overtook him almost at the desk, as his hand wrote the finishing lines of his last work, and seizing his pen wrote for him on the clear record of his life, "Finis." And so he slept.

Dr. Fowler's habit of thought, his incessant and superabundant energy which drove him to work, as Jehu drove, furiously, unfitted him for the cloistered recesses of the laboratory and the quiet routine of research work. His nature kept him on the firing line, in immediate conflict with the forces of disease, so he sought out for his life task the most exacting and exhausting work of the profession, the practice of surgery. When he was not actually at work over the operating-table, he was at his desk, and

when he was not at work he was asleep. It was impossible for his restless mind to be idle. His treatise on surgery is his gift to the profession, his farewell and his monument.

As we glance through the pages of the work we are constantly reminded of the man. Dr. Fowler was a student of the world. No pent up Utica restrained his powers or activities. He was not satisfied with the literature of his native tongue nor with such reading as his limited time allowed him from the world's literature, so he kept himself informed through correspondents in Europe whom he paid to forward to him at once everything of importance which went on in the European clinics. He was thus often cognizant of continental methods long before the published accounts appeared in the journals. He was also a familiar figure at most of the great clinics abroad, whither he journeyed not for rest but rather instruction and the amplification of his powers. As a teacher his years of experience fitted him in a peculiar manner to write a successful work on surgery. He knew wherein men failed. He had probed the weaknesses of the graduate student for many years, nor had he read hundreds of examination papers without appreciating the value of conciseness and exact statement. His book is the epitome of his life. No one can peruse its pages without being impressed with the wide learning of the author. It has become fashionable nowadays to edit a work on medicine or surgery in which the work of the editor is largely that of supervision, the successive chapters being written by different men. Such works are termed "Systems," and are often notable for the unevenness of their quality. Dr. Fowler however has put into these pages the record of his life of work and study with little aid from other men. It is distinctly Fowler's Surgery and not an edited compilation. The work is a marvel of condensation. There is little rhetoric and no useless verbiage. Every sentence tells its story, either to recount a fact or give instruction as to treatment. The first volume, as the author states in his preface, contains an exposition of the "fundamental principles underlying what is known as the science of surgery." Chapters on inflammation coupled with a chapter on surgical bacteriology give the student the basic facts which relate to acute and chronic tissue changes dependent on the various infections. The chapter on laboratory aids to surgical diagnosis is invaluable and contains the most recent

methods in hæmatology, urinology and kindred subjects. Chapters on general surgical considerations, common and special dangers incident to operations and postoperative complications point out to the student the various pitfalls and snares in surgical work. The chapter on operative procedures is an epitome of operative surgery. A chapter on the regional surgery of the head and thorax concludes the first volume. Of special interest is Dr. Fowler's account of total pleurectomy, an operation which he originated and first performed October 27, 1893. The second volume largely contains the results of the author's personal work, and consists in a description of the regional surgery of the body with the exception of the chapter in the first volume already noted.

Among operations which Dr. Fowler originated or modified may be mentioned the following: Protopexy, for total prolapse of the rectum; ventrosuspension of the uterus by means of the urachus; a combined catgut and cautery operation for hemorrhoids; intraperitoneal displacement of the cord, a modification of the Bassini operation for hernia; ureterorectal transplantation of the ureters for exstrophy of the bladder with valve formation to prevent ascending infection. The chapter on hernia is of great excellence. The chapter on the surgery of the prostate contains an account of all the more recent work which has been done in this important field. The chapter on operations on the pelvic organs is as complete as considerations of space permit in a two-volume work. The volume closes with the injuries and diseases of the extremities, including fractures and dislocations. The author devoted most of his spare time for the last fifteen years of his life to the completion of this work. It is his book, the record of his experience, a summary of his life work. Those of us whose privilege it was to be his associates will ever read its pages with affection and respect. We shall be reminded of his eagerness for work, of his boyish enthusiasm, his pleasure and happiness in the success of his own pupils and former assistants. He had no mean jealousies. He was always ready with advice, congratulation, encouragement. We have lost our master and our friend.

ALGERNON THOMAS BRISTOW.